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Bangalore Mirror

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Between February 2020 and February 2024, at least 11,820 trees were axed in Bengaluru at a rate of eight trees daily

THE AXE FILES

Biggest chunk of green cover claimed by metro rail

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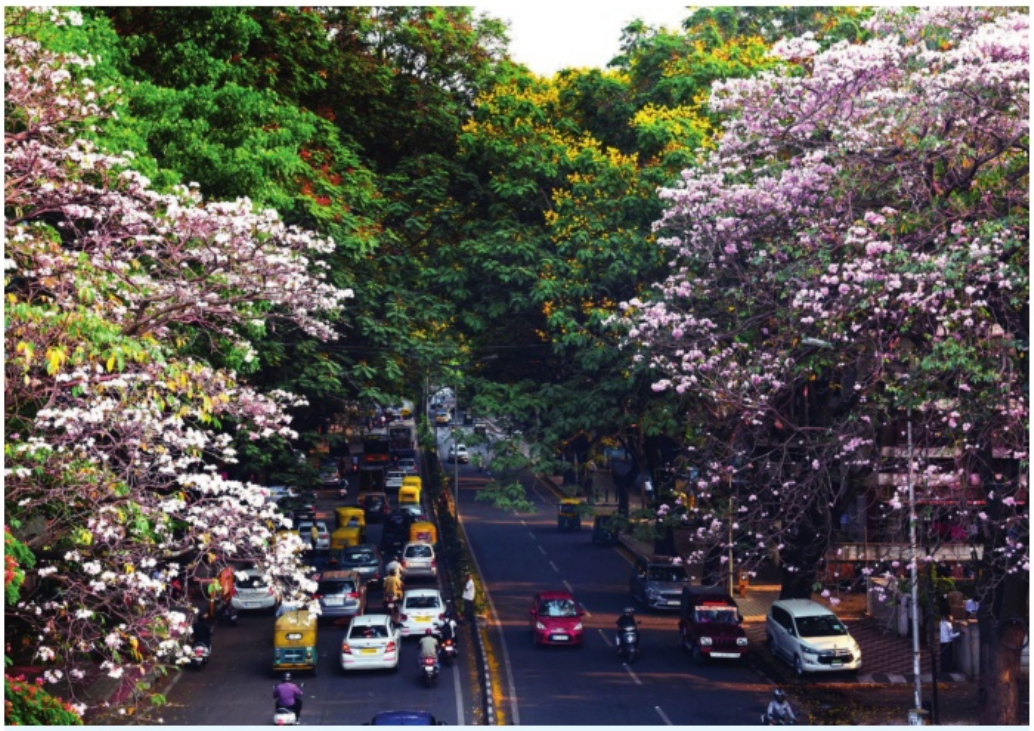
In Bengaluru, one tree is chopped every three hours. According to the official statistics obtained from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), between February 2020 and February 2024, nearly 12,000 trees were axed in Bengaluru. At least 11,820 trees were felled for various development and infrastructure projects. This is the same as axing a little over eight trees daily and as many as 246 trees every month for four years.

The data showed that in the given period the Tree Expert Committee (TEC) gave green signal to remove nearly 72% of the total trees that were proposed to be felled. While permission was sought by various agencies to remove 16,509 trees, 11,820 faced the axe and a little over 2,000 were translocated.

The biggest chunk of green cover was sacrificed for Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). BMRCL alone sought permission to remove over 6,000 trees and felled 4,599.

According to Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust, nearly 12,000 trees cut over four years is an alarming number.

"So many trees being felled indicate that the TEC is not scrutinising applications thoroughly. There is always scope to save more trees mainly by way of retention and not necessarily transplantation. TEC should focus first on retention, followed by transplantation, and then felling. The numbers are indeed alarming," said Devare.



"There is always scope to save more trees mainly by way of retention and not necessarily transplantation — Dattatreya Devare, trustee, Bangalore Environment Trust

The annihilation continues though various scientific studies in the past have highlighted how the preservation of old trees improves airflows and can tackle urban heat islands. A recent analysis of public green

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Why Bengaluru is a heat island

'Changes in urban form, vegetation, materials used vital to reversing heat islands'

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As the city sees unprecedented heat, experts are of the view that concrete surfaces could be aggravating the micro climate with urban heat islands. Bengaluru has seen a rise in the construction of white-topped roads of late that could be a factor.

Several such aspects are playing a role in turning the urban climate hostile to the residents — unplanned urbanisation, construction material, and decreasing green cover add to the woes. With more surfaces becoming impermeable, the city is facing urban heat island effect aggravating the conditions further.

Experts said the construction of white-topped roads, which lends to lesser permeability of water, could lead to more adverse heat island effects than asphalted roads.

"The current situation is due to concretisation in the city including roads, cutting down of trees, destruction of lakes which is leading to combined contribution in the reduction of liveability. There is no effective medium for heat to be absorbed without trees. The greenhouse gases being released can be converted to ozone and further into O3. The temperature under the shared and concretised roads is usually 3-4 degrees

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Musical tribute

Join for an evening of profound cultural enrichment and artistic celebration as Natanam Institute of Dance offers tribute to the eminent composer Syama Shastri, a distinguished figure in the realm of Carnatic music and one of the Trinity of Carnatic music composers. Led by Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik and her disciples, this tribute stands as a testament to his enduring influence and significant contributions to the classical arts, offering attendees an immersive experience into his timeless compositions. **When: April 27, 5 pm Where: Yuvaka Sangha, Jayanagar**

02 Sky show

"Indian Space Odyssey: Sounding Rockets to Gaganyaan," a sky show presented by ISRO, traces the birth and evolution of the Indian space programme and its various achievements. It includes impressive animations of the various aspects of Gaganyaan, including astronaut training, rocket vehicle preparation and launch, astronauts in orbit, and their safe return projected onto the sky dome. **When: April 23 to 30 Where: Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium**

03 Decoupage art

Explore the art of decoupage and upcycle a bottle into something beautiful with a workshop on "Bottle Decoupage." It is an easy-to-learn method to create beautiful art pieces with simple materials and techniques by preparing the surfaces, applying decoupage papers without wrinkles, and using waterproofing methods. **When: April 22 onwards; Where: Art Beat, HSR Layout**

Foolproof exams: New tech to shield against tampering

OTP-based, QR coded admission tickets to combat exam malpractice

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To combat malpractice and ensure a foolproof examination system, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) is introducing admission tickets with QR codes. These codes are fortified with OTP-based security, ensuring an impenetrable shield against impersonation and tampering during exams. Dr MK Ramesh, vice chancellor of RGUHS, said that with this, every student's identity is securely verified through a QR scan. "The scan will unlock a comprehensive database, empowering exam invigilators with real-time information to thwart any malfeasance attempts. This initiative extends beyond MBBS exams, encompassing all examinations conducted by RGUHS to bring in integrity and transparency," he said.

Dr Ramesh said that the university was planning for Mission 2025 to propel RGUHS onto the global stage with strategic collaborations with esteemed institutions like IIMB and IISc. "Our goal is not just academic excellence but also safeguarding the sanctity of examinations and setting a gold standard for integrity in education," he added. Explaining the OTP-based mechanism, Registrar (evaluation) Riyz Basha said, "Upon scanning, students receive a unique OTP, fortifying the authentication process. This ensures the integrity of examination halls."

File photo of regular checking before entering exam halls

> **"Upon scanning, students receive a unique OTP, fortifying the authentication process**
> – Riyaz Basha, Registrar (evaluation)

Meanwhile, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has recently addressed concerns and queries raised by medical colleges and institutions regarding the installation and monitoring of CCTV cameras. In response, Director Pankaj Agarwal has outlined a series of guidelines aimed at ensuring effective surveillance within these establishments. "Firstly, the NMC clarified that it will not retain any camera feeds. However, it has been mandated that all medical colleges must have network video recorders (NVRs) with a storage capacity of at least 30 days to store camera footage. This requirement is crucial for maintaining a record of surveillance activities. Moreover, medical colleges are required to share their NVR login credentials with the NMC via support.cctv@nmc.org.in. This step grants the NMC access to playback and download recordings. In terms of network infrastructure, colleges must ensure the availability of a dedicated MPLS/ILL connection with a minimum speed of 100 MBPS. This high-speed connection is essential for reliable and efficient data transmission, enabling seamless monitoring and surveillance operations," he said.

Regarding camera specifications, the NMC has specified that colleges should install 2K (resolution) cameras across all areas except lecture halls, where 4K cameras are required. This differentiation in quality ensures optimal surveillance capabilities in different environments within the college premises. Additionally, colleges have the flexibility to purchase cameras and other necessary equipment as per their own procurement rules. It is crucial to note that the configuration of cameras within the IP pool is the responsibility of the medical colleges, as the NMC will not provide IP pools.

As stated in the NMC circular, colleges are also encouraged to install additional cameras as needed to achieve comprehensive monitoring of their facilities. However, they must ensure that all cameras are clearly labelled to indicate their locations, facilitating easy identification and management. While the NMC emphasises the importance of effective surveillance, it clarifies that it will not be responsible for maintenance issues related to CCTV systems, routers, switches, or any other infrastructure.

Hey! Don't spit! Earth Day campaign cuts to the chase

This year's Earth Day awareness campaign against spitting included a message distinct from the typical ones about protecting our planet's resources and abstaining from littering: to face the issue head-on. "On this Earth Day, my appeal is for everybody to play a role in preventing people from desecrating our beautiful mother earth in the most direct way, when they actually spit on the roads," said Vani Murthy, a city resident and founding member of the Solid Waste Management Roundtable (SWMRT). This appeal came in support of the Stop India Spitting campaign by volunteer group Beautiful Bharat.

"Spitting on anyone is an insult and has only negative emotions attached to it. Spitting on a mother is something unthinkable. We felt the timing was right for people to listen to this specific reason of disrespect to our Mother Earth, to address this social ill that has been tolerated in our country for too long now," shares Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat. Launched at the start of COVID through a viral petition that resulted in spitting becoming punishable, the movement has earlier focused on curbing the practice by raising awareness that it leads to the spread of diseases such as COVID and tuberculosis, highlighting the impact of spit-stained streets on the Swachh Survekshan (cleanliness) rankings of various cities and the experiences of the cleaners who need to clean them.

"Through this campaign, we have reached out to a larger section of people, seeking their support to make it clear that public spitting is no longer acceptable," said Murthy. "We hope more people will get involved now, unlike the earlier response of tuning it out. If more and more bystanders play a role in patient explanation, the slow change will happen, though it would take at least 2-3 decades with the right measures," she explained.

File photo of no spitting notice

Dr Nasiruddin G, Consultant-Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital, said, "Public spitting can definitely play a role in disease transmission, though the exact risk varies. Saliva can harbour viruses, bacteria, and fungi, including those causing illnesses like the common cold, flu, and even tuberculosis. If an infected person spits, the germs can land on surfaces or be carried in airborne droplets, potentially infecting others who touch the spot or inhale the droplets." — BMB

Another month, another app to ease traffic

Commuters unsure if latest navigation app can solve city's traffic woes, if enforcement is not good enough

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The traffic police have teamed up with MapmyIndia, a tech company, to introduce a navigation app tailored for Bengaluru commuters. This app promises real-time updates on traffic conditions, offering users the fastest routes available and alerting them to congestion, road closures, and other relevant information.

Serving as an alternative to Google Maps, this app is designed to assist both commuters and the traffic police. It enables authorities to identify and alleviate congestion promptly, while also guiding commuters to alternative routes during peak traffic periods. Additionally, the app will provide updates on road conditions such as potholes and maintenance work, ultimately enhancing efficiency for all road users.

However, not everyone is happy about the initiative.

BM talked to Bengaluru residents and they say that no app will ever be able to solve traffic congestion if there is no enforcement.

"I am all in for the use of technology to solve traffic issues, but didn't they just release an app just a few months back? Where is the data of how it has solved traffic congestion? The police keep talking about AI cameras and pelican signals, why can't we see that in most areas of Bengaluru?

Commuters say apps and updates are useful, but enforcement is the most important; apps need regular maintenance to ensure smooth functioning and coordination with other agencies such as BMTC, BBMP, BWSSB and BESCOM is also key requirement

The problem is that there is no enforcement on ground level. There is a severe lack of police workforce and hence you can't even see them on the road," said a resident.

Another citizen added that launching an app with similar functionality doesn't make any sense since almost all people commuting to different places already use Google maps for navigation which gives the best real time traffic updates or any congestion.

"Also, if there is some peak hour — let's say time people leave offices, they all have to leave at the same time regardless of if there is congestion or not thereby defeating the purpose. Releasing an app which helps in traffic management needs to be publicised properly so that people use it.

Last but not least, launching an app to curb this traffic problem is great but we need to understand it's rather more important to stick with one app and enhance it, enhance the enforcement and not waste the taxpayers' money by releasing new apps every six months," said the citizen, Subhash.

"Apps and updates are useful, but enforcement is the most important aspect. Also, the apps need regular maintenance to ensure smooth functioning.

Apart from this, other agencies such as BMTC, BBMP, BWSSB and BESCOM need to maintain regular and effective communication with the traffic police and alert them if there is maintenance work, bus breakdowns, accidents involving electric poles, etc so that the traffic police can act quickly to prevent congestion," said a commuter.

Board the chow coach

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Train passengers will now be able to have hot meals in a rail coach-turned-restaurant at the Kantriveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station. On December 20, the South Western Railways (SWR) lowered an old coach onto a railway track present at the main entrance of KSR railway station for the purpose. This coach has now been remodeled to an air-conditioned restaurant, allowing travellers to savour delicious meals.

The contract of the restaurant at KSR railway station has been given to OAM Industries Pvt Ltd while Gaurav Enterprises has received the contract for Sir MV terminal railway station. The contract runs for a period of five years.

The Division will earn Rs 87 lakh per year as fee from the licensee at KSR station, which has a footfall of nearly two lakh per day. The licensee at SMVT station, which has a footfall of over 60,000 daily, will pay an annual fee of Rs 33 lakh.

A rail coach-turned-restaurant is also installed at the entrance of Sir M Visvesvaraya terminal in Baiyappanahalli. "As a frequent rail commuter, I was hoping for the restaurant to open up at the earliest. Though six months behind schedule, it is a breath of fresh air. The snippets of information within the restaurant regarding our state and the city is intriguing. More such non-fare revenue initiatives which also benefit the commuters must be taken up by the railways," said a visitor. **BMB**

Hubballi murder: Case to be given to CID, says CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said his government has decided to hand over the Hubballi student murder case to the Crime Investigation Department and that a special court will be set up for its speedy disposal. Neha Hiremath (23), daughter of Congress councillor of Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation Niranjan Hiremath, was allegedly stabbed to death on the campus of BVB College on Thursday.

The accused Fayaz Khondunaik, who fled from the scene, was arrested subsequently. "We have decided to give it to the CoD (CID). We will set up a special court for it. Charge sheet has to be filed in a time-bound manner and the case has to be disposed of, so the special court," the CM said. **PTI**

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Dr. Tarang Krishna
(MD - Cancer Healer Center)

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Single-use plastic usage defies all raids and bans

Resident Welfare Associations call for Flying Squads to enforce stricter bans, highlighting urgent need for collective action to curb plastic pollution in city

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Single-use plastic seen at garbage dumps

Despite BBMP authorities conducting raids to seize plastic, the supply of single-use plastic (SUP) continues unabated in Bengaluru. In February 2024, BBMP conducted a raid on an illegal plastic manufacturing unit, seizing three tonnes of plastic. However, no significant efforts have been made to curb the menace of SUP in the city over the last two months.

The Bengaluru Residents Welfare Association (RWA), as part of the 2024-25 BBMP budget recommendations, suggested budget allocation for constituting Flying Squads to tackle SUP at the source and enforce regulations at markets, transport checkpoints, and factories when reported by whistleblowers. RWA has collaborated with BBMP Marshall teams in various areas, such as BBMP South Zone, to plan and execute SUP enforcement drives over the years. They have also conducted campaigns in areas like the Mini Forest area in JP Nagar and among street vendors in 2022-2023, as well as at Sarakki market.

R Rajagopalan, Convener of Bengaluru RWA, emphasised the importance of making every day Earth Day for all Bengaluru residents. He stated, "To enable our city residents to celebrate, share, and participate actively in this year's Earth Day event, we have, with the help of a young Green Warrior Poorvi NB from Bengaluru South, created content that can be used by residents as their display pictures, status, or shared in their social media posts with one clear message - Say NO to Plastics. We would encourage every resident to participate and help spread awareness and do their part without fail. If you have never taken that first step, this Earth Day 2024 is as good a time as any."

Shobha Bhat of Usiru Foundation welcomed the recommendation of Bengaluru RWA for constituting flying squads to eliminate SUP. She criticised BBMP authorities for their failure to implement the SUP ban even during functions organised by the BBMP at its head office, emphasising the need for stringent measures to end SUP usage in the city. Bhat added, "Avoiding usage of the SUP is the responsibility of everyone in the city. The BBMP authorities have to keep vigil at markets and bus stations to prevent the supply of the SUP from other states."

> **"The BBMP authorities have to keep vigil at markets and bus stations to prevent the supply of the single-use plastic from other states**
> – Shobha Bhat, Usiru Foundation

Shwetha Urs of Women of Wisdom demanded that BBMP authorities and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) implement the SUP ban and find out its source. She highlighted that despite KSPCB's ban on SUP, individuals from neighbouring states continue to supply it to the city, emphasising the collective responsibility of citizens to avoid SUP usage.

Mechanical devices installed to combat flooding

BBMP and CGI join forces with NGOs to deploy floating barriers in stormwater drains, marking a crucial step towards sustainable urban development

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In a bid to combat the perennial issue of flooding in Bengaluru, innovative mechanical devices have been strategically installed at three key locations in East Bengaluru. Facilitated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Storm Water Drain (SWD) department, the project aims to address the menace of solid waste accumulation within stormwater drains, a primary contributor to the city's annual flooding woes.

The initiative was supported by CGI, a global leader in IT and business consulting services, through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainability program, marking a significant step towards sustainable urban development in the region. The project's execution has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of the NGO That's Eco Foundation and technology provision by AlphaMERS.

Speaking on the significance of the initiative, a spokesperson from the BBMP SWD department highlighted the critical role of collaborative partnerships in driving sustainable urban development. They emphasised the importance of harnessing innovative technologies and community engagement to tackle complex urban challenges and build a more resilient and liveable city.

The technology deployed at an SWD leading to Bellandur Lake

Being floating devices, these barriers adjust to water levels during the dry season and in monsoons. This helps prevent the choking of stormwater drains. There have been flooding issues every year and this measure will help minimise the compounding effect of clogging and reduction in drainage capacity.

The problem has long grappled with the twin challenges of rapid urbanisation and inadequate infrastructure, resulting in recurrent flooding episodes that disrupt daily life and economic activities. The installation of these innovative mechanical devices represents a proactive approach by local authorities and stakeholders to address the city's infrastructure vulnerabilities and enhance its resilience against natural disasters.

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Broken pavement
Bannerghatta Road

A death trap has emerged in front of Jal Bhavan on Bannerghatta Road due to the metro line encroaching on the footpath.

Dysfunctional lift
Gandhinagar

The lift at the District Registration Office in Gandhinagar is malfunctioning, causing inconvenience to the public

Dangerous pole
Malleswaram

Residents are playing around with BESCOM power equipment near electric poles without understanding the potential dangers. Can the authorities advise them to refrain from such activities and ensure safety around the power supply?

B'luru's temperature now worse than 2016

No rains expected for another ten days, temperatures to go up rapidly

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The brief moment of joy has faded as Bengaluru returns to scorching temperatures. Adding to the discomfort, meteorological experts predict a dry spell in the city for the next 10 days, with temperatures expected to soar.

On Sunday, Bengaluru's temperature touched 37.4 degrees Celsius, marking the second-highest recorded temperature for the year. Sadly, 2024 seems to even surpass 2016 now. According to updates by Namma Karnataka Weather on X platform, "This week, the weather forecast for Bengaluru and its surrounding areas suggests dry conditions with no expected rainfall, leading to daytime temperatures ranging between 36-38°C."

Comparing data from March 1 to April 21, 2016, and 2024, reveals a slight increase in average temperatures in 2024. Notably, by April 21, 2016 had experienced 49 days with temperatures at 34°C and above, whereas 2024 has seen 51 such days. Similarly, in 2016, there were 33 days with temperatures at 35°C and above by April 21, whereas in 2024, this count stands at 29 days. This resemblance to the summer of 2016 is quite pronounced.

Citizens beating the unbearable heat this summer by carrying umbrellas to protect them

Global weather experts have announced the official end of the Super El Niño, making way for the La Niña phase, which is anticipated to bring increased rainfall. However, an update from Skymet suggests that the La Niña phase alone might not guarantee precipitation.

Analysing La Niña and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) data together suggests that the combination of La Niña and a positive/positive-neutral IOD is favourable for the Indian monsoon. Conversely, a negative or negative-neutral IOD may dampen monsoon rains, as seen in 2016, which ended with 97 per cent rainfall of LPA despite La Niña's presence.

Regarding ENSO, the Skymet report says that global sea surface temperatures have been consistently warm, affecting the typical Pacific Ocean warming/cooling associated with ENSO neutrality, making predictions around El Niño and La Niña less accurate. Currently, all four Nino indices in the Pacific have marginally cooled over the past week, indicating a transition towards ENSO neutral by the middle of next month."Regarding IOD, recent data shows a value above the positive IOD threshold, yet it's considered neutral pending consistent values above the threshold for at least 8 weeks," said the report. "However, indicators suggest a positive IOD is likely to develop, coinciding with the arrival of the southwest monsoon."

The rare combination of a positive IOD and La Niña holds promise for a better monsoon in 2024. However, the timing of ENSO turning neutral and the onset of La Niña advisory remains crucial. Positive IOD and La Niña must stay in phase for an adequate duration to trigger monsoon bursts. The weak and silent MJO indicates a low likelihood of a pre-monsoon cyclone in the Indian seas this month.

Hoax bomb scare disrupts hotel

In response to an anonymous bomb threat at Kadamba Gardenia Hotel, Bengaluru police swiftly evacuated the premises and deployed a bomb squad, disrupting a baby shower event.

This incident echoes previous threats in the city, such as ominous emails sent to officials after the Rameshwaram Cafe blast, detailing plans for explosions targeting prominent figures and public spaces.

Bengaluru's airport has faced hoax bomb threats, resulting in arrests and heightened security measures, indicating a concerning pattern of threats in the city.

Byju's pays partial salaries

Ahead of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) hearing, Byju's, an edtech company, has paid partial salaries to employees for March. Founder and CEO Raveendran personally incurred debt to cover part of the salaries. While teachers and lower-level staff received full salaries, others got 50 to 100 per cent.

This precedes an April 23 NCLT hearing where investors Peak XV Partners, Prosus NV, General Atlantic, and Sofina SA contest Byju's decision for a USD 200 million rights issue. Funds from a recent rights issue are held in escrow per NCLT orders, prompting Raveendran's personal debt move.

—ANI

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Nobel Laureate, 2005 and Spiritual Leader

Ms. Ashley Judd
Hollywood Actor, Activist & Global Goodwill Ambassador, UNFPA (2016)

His Excellency Dr Alejandro Toledo
Former President of Peru (2015)

Ms. Anne F. Stenhammer
Former Regional Programme Director, UN Women, South Asia Regional Office (2014)

Date: 22nd April 2024

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Free the tree: Green initiative to nurture city's environment

Not just clearing concrete, campaign ensures green cover, water conservation

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Volunteers of iCare Foundation and Jaya Karnataka Janapara Vedike planting a sapling on 12th Main Indiranagar

In an attempt to ensure sufficient space around trees for the percolation of rainwater during the monsoon, the volunteers of the iCare Brigade and Jaya Karnataka Janapara Vedike launched a campaign called "Free the Tree: Root of the Matter" on Saturday. Veteran Kannada music director and singer Gurukiran attended the campaign as a chief guest.

"The weather in Bengaluru has changed due to concrete buildings. There was a time when we needed to wear sweaters and monkey caps, but now the temperature is more than 34 degrees Celsius. Some of the businessmen are removing trees in front of their shops for better visibility. The need of the hour is to plant more saplings to ensure greenery in the city that is known as Garden City. I thank the people involved in the campaign," said Gurukiran.

Launched in association with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Karnataka Forest Department, the campaign not only aimed at liberating tree roots but also at setting a precedent for urban environmental stewardship. "Our mission transcends the mere clearing of concrete; it is about nurturing the very essence of our city's green lungs. By enhancing tree health and integrating rainwater harvesting into the urban fabric, we are not only safeguarding our infrastructure but also replenishing the precious groundwater. Every tree stands as a testament to our commitment to a greener, more resilient future," said Poornima Shetty of iCare Brigade.

She further called on the citizens to help them make every tree a beacon of hope and a wellspring of life for Bengaluru and other parts of the nation, saying that each tree is not just a part of our city's canopy but a vital component of a natural aquifer system. "This initiative is our pledge to the environment, ensuring green cover and water conservation as a step towards sustainability."

Anjali Nene, a resident of Rustam Bagh Layout, said that this campaign aims to free the space around the base of all trees, allowing easy percolation. "The cementing and tarring that happen around trees indiscriminately needs to change through educating people about the importance of percolation pits around trees. iCare Brigade is helping to make this happen for as many trees as possible," she said.

> **"This initiative is our pledge to the environment, ensuring green cover and water conservation as a step towards sustainability**
> – Poornima Shetty iCare Brigade

Prasad Shetty of the iCare Brigade said that they have taken care to ensure 60 tree pits as a pilot programme. "We will take the campaign across the city after the Lok Sabha elections. We want to thank BBMP and Karnataka Forest Department for their cooperation," he added.

Meanwhile, a volunteer, on the condition of anonymity, said that it has become a habit for the workers engaged by contractors to put concrete or tar around trees while developing the footpaths or asphalting roads in the city. "Despite the hue and cry of environmentalists, the BBMP engineers fail to be on the spot while asphalting the roads. If the workers leave sufficient space around trees during these processes, trees will be healthy and rainwater will be harvested," the volunteer said.

IISc boost for cancer research

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed a synthetic compound that can boost the production of antibodies against cancer cells. The compound can latch onto a protein in the blood and hitchhike a ride to the lymph node, where it can boost the production of antibodies against cancer cells.

According to the IISc team, cancer cells can weaken or shut down the production of antibodies inside the body that target and eliminate them. Developing a cancer vaccine, therefore, involves modifying or creating a mimic of an antigen found on the surface of cancer cells to turn up or turn on this antibody production. In recent years, scientists have turned to carbohydrates found on cancer cell surfaces to develop these antigens. "Carbohydrate-based antigens have enormous importance and relevance in cancer vaccine development. One major reason is that both normal and abnormal [cancer] cells have large amounts of carbohydrates coating their surfaces. But the abnormal cells carry carbohydrates that are very heavily truncated," explained N Jayaraman, professor at the Department of Organic Chemistry and senior author of the study published in Advanced Healthcare Materials.

They decided to exploit the carrying ability of a natural protein called serum albumin. To design the compound, Jayaraman and his PhD student, Keerthana TV, zeroed in on a truncated carbohydrate called Tn found on the surface of a variety of cancer cells and synthesised it in the lab. Then, they combined it with a long-chain, oil-loving chemical; unlike carbohydrates, which are water-loving, the combination can bind strongly to human serum albumin. "Serum albumin is sufficient to carry it forward." Jayaraman added that the method can be adapted for other types of vaccines as well. "By changing the type of antigen, we can target multiple cancers," said Keerthana.

— BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Escaping heat: Tourists flock to hill stations

Sridhar Vivan
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Now that summer vacations are underway, many popular tourist destinations in the state, such as Hampi and Badami, are reporting fewer tourists due to the intense heat. But now it looks like a lot of people are flocking to the hill stations, which are witnessing full bookings and traffic jams.

According to news reports, many of the roads in Ooty are witnessing serpentine traffic pile up. A report by the Times of India (TOI) stated that over the past few weeks, the hill town has been witnessing more than 10,000 footfalls daily, a number expected to rise due to the upcoming summer festival in the first week of May. Traffic congestion has been a persistent issue during the peak tourist season of April and May in this small town spanning about 3 km. With the peak tourist season underway, local residents in Ooty are expressing concern about the increasingly chaotic traffic conditions in the town. They have demanded that the authorities efficiently handle the situation by studying ground reality and regulating traffic. Many local residents are also highlighting that the influx of vehicles exceeds the town's capacity to manage. The situation in Ooty is currently such that navigating the one-kilometre stretch from Charing Cross to the main market in Ooty takes nearly an hour.

K Prabakar, the district superintendent of police, confirmed that the volume of traffic during the tourist season overwhelms a town with only three main roads and a few arterial roads. "For a small town like Ooty, the number of vehicles entering is substantial. We have over 300 police personnel working in two shifts solely to manage traffic in Ooty Town," he said, adding that every junction in the town is under police management and efforts are being made to alleviate traffic congestion despite limited parking facilities. In Ooty, shuttle services to Doddabetta Peak have proven helpful in addressing traffic woes at Doddabetta Junction, according to the SP.

On the other hand, the situation in Kodaikanal is no different. TOI stated that travel agents are concerned about the potential overcrowding of Kodaikanal, known as the 'princess of hill stations', which could lead to congestion in this popular destination. They have noticed a significant increase in tourists. A travel agent said, "Kodaikanal has become a favourite destination for tourists seeking a short stay to enjoy a hill station experience. Our three-day and two-night package is highly sought after as it covers nearly all popular tourist spots in the place. During long weekends, families are enthusiastic about visiting Kodaikanal. Many express interest in exploring tourist attractions, particularly the temples in Madurai, before heading to Kodaikanal. We see a footfall of more than 15,000 during long weekends. However, traffic congestion has become a common issue during holidays in the hill station."

File photo of Kodaikanal Lake

Confetti welcome

Tamil Nadu BJP chief Annamalai holds a roadshow in support of BJP Bangalore South constituency candidate MP Tejasvi Surya at Jayanagar for Lok Sabha election on Monday

Miles to go and promises to keep

Citizens question political leaders about previous assurances given to develop East Bengaluru

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

File photo of the state of a road in Kasavanahalli

As Lok Sabha elections are upon us, the Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru, who have been actively raising issues of their localities, questioned the elected representatives who had come down to meet the resident welfare association as part of their campaign. The citizens questioned the candidates about their lack of interest in fixing the problems that common people have been facing in their day to day lives.

Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan had to come down for the campaign, but he was not present at the meeting with citizens, the former MLA of Mahadevapura Arvind Limbavali arrived.

During his campaign for Mohan at Mythri apartment, Chikkanayakanahalli, Kodathi, a list of issues were raised from East Bengaluru, especially the Sarjapur-Kasavanahalli area. While the elected representative had promised to secure funds to fix the issues nothing was done, and the citizens stated that the area has been abandoned, with leaders neglecting even basic needs like filling potholes.

Members from Citizens Movement East Bengaluru said, "Halanayakanahalli and Kodathi panchayath areas are one of the fast-growing places in Mahadevapura constituency. There are multiple residential projects in the area that will put a toll towards infrastructure challenges along with current challenges. Despite raising these issues several times, none of it has been addressed. While we have observed road works are started in Whitefield and Gunjur areas on the other end on the Sarjapur side, the roads are completely neglected. So we asked when this would be solved. Only assurances are given every year and problems are not fixed. This time as well we are told that funds will be secured from the state government for the work, but we don't know how far it will go."

Some of the long-pending demands were developing public toilets at multiple places at Sarjapura Road, develop government schools, develop infrastructure at Kasavanahalli, Kaikondrahalli, Halanayakanahalli, Chikkanayakanahalli and Hadusiddapura, set up a waste management unit at Halanayakanahalli panchayat vicinity to manage the household garbage, review all the rajakaluves as per revenue department survey at Chikkanayakanahalli, Halanayakanahalli and Doddekannahalli and demolition as per government norms.

A resident of the area added, "Road safety review and safety measures for all the major roads connecting to Sarjapur Road like scientific humps and setting up of convex mirrors should be taken up. "

Development for Halanayakanahalli Panchayat office Road, Junnasandra road connecting to Chikkanayakanahalli road should be taken up, the residents demanded.

"When we met the Limbavali, he pointed out that no funds are coming for East Bengaluru as it partially comes under BBMP and partially with the panchayath. However, we have been given assurance that the problems would be solved. We can just hope for something positive to happen. "

Additionally, the former MLA assured to pursue the double-decker mode for the Sarjapur Road metro as soon as the Centre receives the detailed project report.

BJP expels Eshwarappa for six years

Leader expelled as party cites violation of discipline in decision to contest as rebel candidate

The BJP on Monday expelled rebel leader KS Eshwarappa for six years for violating party discipline and contesting Lok Sabha polls as an independent candidate.

The former deputy chief minister who had also served as the party's state unit president, has entered the poll fray, blaming state BJP president BY Vijayendra and his father and veteran party leader BS Yediyurappa, for his son K E Kantesh being denied the ticket to contest from Haveri. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has got BJP's Haveri ticket, while Vijayendra's brother and MP BY Raghavendra is the BJP candidate from Shimoga.

"Ignoring the party's directions, you are contesting as a rebel candidate from Shimoga Lok Sabha constituency, causing embarrassment to the party. This is violation of party discipline," state disciplinary committee president Lingaraj Patil said in the expulsion order.

It said, "so, you have been relieved from all the responsibilities and have been expelled from the party for six years, with immediate effect."

The 75-year-old Eshwarappa, had remained steadfast in his decision to contest. He had even filed his nomination as an independent candidate.

The party's decision to expel the former Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, came on the last day for withdrawal of candidature for the second phase of Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka on May 7.

Eshwarappa, along with Yediyurappa and the late H N Ananth Kumar, is widely credited for building the BJP from the grassroots in Karnataka.

Claiming that the party in the state is in the clutches of its Parliamentary board member Yediyurappa and his family, with his one son as MP and other son Vijayendra as MLA and the state BJP president, Eshwarappa, has repeatedly accused Yediyurappa of sidelining those who espoused the cause of Hindutva like Nalin Kumar Kateel, Pratap Simha, CT Ravi and DV Sadananda Gowda. He has, however, stressed that he is not against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ahead of the Assembly polls last year, opting out of the contest, he had asked the party's central leadership that he wished to retire from electoral politics, but Modi had pacified him then. **PTI**

2024 Parliament Election

Khan unveils vision for Bengaluru

Mansoor Ali Khan, the Congress candidate for Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency, promised to work for the development of Karnataka and Bengaluru, both inside and outside Parliament. "I will fight with courage and determination to solve the problems of water, infrastructure, and traffic in Bengaluru," he said. Khan criticized the BJP government for its inaction in addressing these issues. "The BJP government has done nothing to solve these problems, and it's time for a change," he said. He emphasized the importance of quality education in India's development. "India can only become a superpower if we prioritize quality education," he said. "Currently, only 2.4% of GDP is spent on education, which is insufficient. We need to increase investment in education to make it accessible to all." Khan also highlighted the need for sustainable development and environmental protection. He expressed concern over the high unemployment rate in the state. "Unemployment is a significant problem in Karnataka, and we need to create jobs," he said.
As an educationist, Khan emphasized the importance of education in development. **-Prakash VL**

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jobs

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sherin Felix, residing in No 390 7th cross MSR Nagar Mathikere Bangalore 560054 have changed my name to Shern Felix for all purposes.

I,DIVYASHREE, R/o # M1006 Purva Highlands Mallasandra off Kanakapura Road Anjanapura Bengaluru-560062 do here by declare that I have changed my minor daughter's name from AASHRITHA ARAVIND DHARMASTALA to AASHRITHA DIVYASHREE vide affidavit dated: 15/04/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore

I, Puja Choraria D/O Dheerendra Kumar Daga, R/O D503, Adarsh Rhythm, 71 Panduranganagar, behind fortis hospital, off Bannerghatta road, Bangalore south, Bengaluru Karnataka 560076. Have changed my name to Puja Daga for all future purposes.

I Ashok, Ashok Kumar Bhoormal,Ashok B Jain,Ashok Kumar Bhoormalji Jain, Ashok Bhoormal Kumar, Ashok B Kumar S/o Bhoormalji No 81, Kamadhenu Nilaya, 4th main road, Ganganagar B'luru-560032 have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Bhoormalji for all purpose.

I, Sheela Muniswamy W/o Balakrishna D R/o 356, 8th cross, 3rd main, Tatanagar, Kodigehalli, Sahakarnagar po, Bengaluru 560092 have changed my name to Sheela Balakrishna affidavit Dt.22/04/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Anthony Bernard Francis Moraes S/O, Piedade Moraes R/o C G07 Sekhar Hyde Park, 20/2 Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru 66. have changed my name to Anthony Bernard Moraes. Vide affidavit dt: 20/4/2024 notary Yankoba.

I, Swetha Ramakrishna W/o Nithin L K R/o No.141, Om nilaya, 2nd main road, 8th block, Koramangala, Bengaluru have changed my name to Shwetha Ramakrishna affidavit Dt.22/04/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Farida Farheen W/O, Munavar Pasha R/o No.933/1, 11th Main, 16th Cross, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore-560092 have changed my name to Fareeda Farheen.

I Trilok K, residing in No 212/6 Jamuna bai building, SG Palya CV Raman Nagar near docomo tower Bangalore 560093 have changed my name to Trilok Krishnamurthy for all purposes.

I Vishal Parasmal s/o Parasmal r/o Flat No.F2, Tulsi Garden Apartment, No.8/2, 6th Floor, Lakshmi Road, 8th Cross Shanthi Nagar, B'luru-560027, Have Changed My Name to Vishal Metha for all Purposes.

I, Chitra Shekar T W/o Shekar R R/o 537/1, 5th main, Dollars Colony NEW BEL Road, Bengaluru -560094. Changed my name from Chitra Shekar To Chitra Shekar T for all future purposes.

I Komal Baddi D/O, Gopalsa Baddi R/o #101,sri Ranjani Apartment, 2nd Cross, 9th Main, Dollars Colony, Jp Nagar 4th Phase, Bangalore-76 have changed my name to Komal Sunil Khoday.

I Prajwal S, residing in No 7, Munivenkatappa Layout, Dasarahalli Hebbal, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560024 have changed my name to Prrajwal Shivanandda for all purposes.

I, Abdul Azeem Abdul Hakim s/o Abdul Hakim r/o No.12/2, Lakshmi Road, 6th Cross, Shanthi Nagar, B'luru-560027, Have Changed My Name to Abdul Azeem for all Purposes.

I Ramana Arella S/O, Ramanna Arella R/o #19 2nd Cross, Ramanjaneya Layout, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name to Ramana.

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GALLERIA

Hopes up for early release of funds by Centre for drought relief

On Karnataka State's plea in the Supreme Court seeking financial assistance for drought relief, Karnataka minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that the Government of India has agreed to take a decision within this week.

"We are hoping that not only a decision will be made but funds will also be released," he said.

Hailing the Supreme Court's statement about the issue, he said, "The honourable SC bench also commented that it is not good for the Union where the States have to come to the Apex Court for such issues that are mandatory and routine and age-old practices."

Notably, the Centre informed the Supreme Court that something will happen before next Monday (April 29) on the matter relating to Karnataka State's plea seeking financial assistance for drought relief. The Supreme Court adjourned the hearing till April 29.

Earlier, after strictly adhering to the procedure outlined in the Manual for Drought Management-2020, Karnataka notified 223 out of 236 taluks as drought-affected. Cumulatively for the Kharif 2023 season, the agriculture and horticulture crop loss have been reported in more than 48 lakh hectares with the estimated loss (cost of cultivation) of Rs.35,162 crore, the plea further said.

The State Government has sought Rs 18,171.44 crore under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), through three Drought Relief Memorandums submitted in September-November 2023 ie, Rs.4663.12 crore towards crop loss input subsidy, Rs. 12577.9 crore towards gratuitous relief to families whose livelihood has been seriously affected due to drought, Rs.566.78 crore for addressing a shortage of drinking water relief then and Rs.363.68 crore towards cattle care. Crops have failed, reduced water availability has affected domestic, agricultural, and industrial-hydel energy water supply, it added.

"The total estimated loss due to crop damage in the State is Rs. 35, 162.05 Crore and the assistance sought from the Government of India under NDRF is Rs. 18,171.44 Crore. In terms of the Disaster Management Act, of 2005, the Union of India is under obligation to render financial assistance to the State Governments. **ANI**

Urban heat islands impact minimum temperature

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

higher. Whitetopped roads lead to reduced permeability of water and increased water run-off. This could also lead to rising urban heat island effect along concrete roads," said environmentalist Dr AN Yellapa Reddy.

Reddy added the heat island effect can cause the nano particulate matter to rise and trap the heat. "Urban heat island effect is caused due to unplanned high rise buildings and lack of disposal of heat where the dispersion of heat is nearly nil and it circulates. The nano particulate matter rises when the heat increases and decreases when the heat decreases," he added.

Experts further noted that the changes in urban form, vegetation, and materials being used are vital to reversing or recuperating from the urban heat island effect.

"While the current temperature rise is due to climate change, it aggravates the condition. How we construct the buildings, how much greenery is planted, and the type of materials being used can vastly impact the urban heat island effect. It can also be impacted by human activities such as the utilisation of motor vehicles, air conditioners, etc., that contribute to the heat. The concrete retains the heat during the daytime and slowly releases it at night. Hence, the heat island effect impacts minimum temperature. But the effect will differ from neighbourhood to neighbourhood. Bengaluru's key aspect of topography, its elevation, should ideally bring down the temperature, but the urban island heat effect works adversely," said Raj Bhagat, an expert in the field.

However, experts further added that simply planting trees could not be effective in resolving the issue.

"Even planting trees should be strategic and planned. The type of trees and space between trees should be factored in while making solutions. The urban form and type of materials used for construction could also play a role in the solution. For example, using cooling paint on rooftops has been proven to be effective. Further construction in the city needs to be well-planned and heat combative. However, there are some long-term solutions like shifting to EVs; developing a climate-action plan on the city level that could spell change. We need to look at ventilation in houses to understand the impacts," added Bhagat.

He also added that city dwellers should learn to adapt to the urban heat island effect. "The nature of work and altering it, staggering the hours of work, operation of schools and so on should be taken into account."

246 trees axed every month for 4 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spaces in Bengaluru pointed out that parks with older trees are more effective in reducing the urban heat island effect. The research had underlined that the ambient air temperature in and around rural green spaces was found to be cooler by 1.9°C compared with urban spaces with less green cover.

Experts raised concern over fast depleting green cover despite various compounded environmental issues, including the ongoing water crisis and the long dry spell. They demanded an Environment Impact Assessment of every project that involves cutting down trees.

"For every development or infrastructure project proposed, there should be an EIA. This report should be used for public consultation before giving a green signal. Moreover, enumeration or counting of affected trees for any project must happen at the planning stage," added Devare.

The TEC, under compensatory plantation, has mandated the condition of planting ten saplings for every tree axed; experts said every agency must make these reports available in the public domain.

"We are undergoing a water crisis, which gives us an idea about just how important green cover is for our survival. The guidelines around compensatory plantations should be followed strictly. Moreover, TEC should figure out ways to save more trees and suggest measures to revive Bengaluru's green cover," said Vijay Nishant, founder of Project Vruksha.

HEALTH TIP: Holding your pee for a long time leads to multiplication of bacteria which can be a contributing factor for UTI

Practice any sport like cycling, swimming, tennis, badminton two to three times a week

MILK TREAT

8 powerful health benefits of drinking milk

A glass of milk is often considered as a whole meal because it contains nine essential nutrients. We're sure your mother and grandmothers narrated lists of the health benefits a glass of milk possesses while forcing you to empty yours. And we're here to tell you that the wise women of your life were right. It's time to consider cutting back on those cups of coffee and maybe replacing them with just plain old milk.

If you think, by 'health benefits' we're only going to talk about how it's going to strengthen you internally, then you're only partially right. Milk has various properties to help beautify you as well. After all, it's not without any reason that the Gods bathe in this elixir. Milk can help you with most woes, from your skin to your hair. If you don't like milk straight-up, any of its byproducts like buttermilk and yoghurt also exhibit similar health benefits. Below are the 8 benefits of drinking milk which make you never skip milk.

1. Great Source of Calcium

Let's get the obvious out of the way first. Calcium doesn't just protect your bones from being brittle. Calcium also plays a big role in literally making your heart pump by allowing your muscles to contract, a study by Havard suggested. It enables blood to clot, preventing you from bleeding out to death every time you cut yourself. It strengthens your bones and plays a key role in the health of your teeth, nails as well as hair.

Pro-Tip: In a glass of milk (250 ml), you are consuming about 285mg of calcium, which meets over 20% of your daily requirement of the mineral, as per the National Osteoporosis Foundation's website.

2. Reduces The Risk of Obesity

Weight Watchers, this one is for you. A cup of milk can give you the feeling of being full. Moreover, it even satisfies your various cravings by simply adding anything from chocolate powder to fruits. Just be sure to not add excessive sugar and you've found yourself the healthiest drink you can consume. What's more, it costs nothing close to the expensive diet stuff people usually invest in.

Pro-Tip: Adding 2-3 cups of milk to your daily diet can help you not just prevent obesity but control your weight.

3. Helps Make Your Teeth Healthy

Most of the calcium in our body comes from our bones and teeth. And for the latter, there is nothing better than milk, be it to make it stronger or to prevent damage. Reposts suggest that drinking a cup of milk a couple of times a day could help prevent cavities and tooth decay. However, it should be noted, that the calcium in milk can only be absorbed by your body when vitamin D is around. So make sure that the milk you drink is fortified with it by your manufacturer.

Pro-Tip: Milk and dairy products not only contain calcium and phosphorus but also proteins called caseins. These, when combined together, form a protective film on the enamel. This coating helps prevent your teeth from decay caused by common bacterial acids.

> "It's time to consider cutting back on cups of coffee and replacing them with just plain old milk, which has internal and external benefits as well

4. Helps Prevent Heartburn

Various foods in our diet are usually more acidic and spicy in nature than we expect or are used to. These, then, become the culprits of harrowing acidity and stomach woes. To avoid being in these kinds of sticky situations, it's advised to have a glass of milk after a meal that has smoke smoking out of your ears. Studies suggest milk has a cooling effect that coats the stomach lining and oesophagus against heartburn.

Pro-Tip: Capsaicin, an oily chemical compound, commonly found in chilli peppers bind a receptor in the tongue and creates a burning sensation. Since oil and water don't mix, the latter doesn't help. However, capsaicin is fat-soluble and hence helps with the burn.

5. Helps Your Skin Glow

While drinking milk isn't always a favourable option, it usually is the combining agent in creating several homemade skin masks that help your skin achieve a glow like no other. In fact, in colonial times, Indian royalty was bathed in milk during special occasions. It's said to have purifying properties and packs in a lot of natural moisturisers, as per a report in the Times Of India. Moreover, reports also suggest that milk has a lightening effect on the skin.

Pro-Tip: Here's a DIY mask you can easily make at home to harness the health benefits of milk for your skin.

6. Helps Fight Diseases

As mentioned before, calcium helps your heart pump by giving your muscles the ability to contract. With that in mind, a glass of milk can keep fatal diseases like high blood pressure and the possibility of having a stroke at bay. Moreover, lactose in the milk helps your liver reduce the production of bad cholesterol. This not only helps improve your vision but helps your body fight certain types of cancers. helps your liver to reduce the production of cholesterol. This helps improve your vision and some types of cancers.

Pro-Tip: Adding turmeric powder to milk can literally help you get rid of everything from cough to a viral infection, while also boosting your immunity.

7. Helps Fight Depression

Adequate levels of Vitamin D maintain the production of serotonin, a hormone associated with mood, appetite and sleep. A 2020 research has recently found that sometimes the feeling of depression can be linked back to a deficiency of Vitamin D in the body. Milk is fortified with Vitamin D boosters by manufacturers and can help aid in getting out of a low mood.

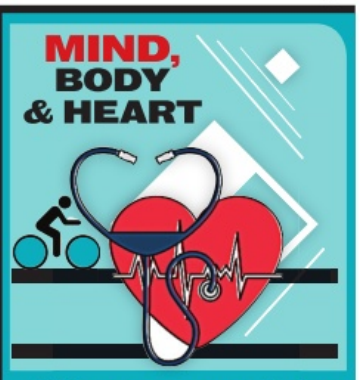
Pro-Tip: There is no better way to get Vitamin D and pump those serotonin hormones than stepping out in the morning sun. However, as we battle the pandemic, better to up your intake of Vitamin D-rich foods like fish, milk and tofu.

8. Hair Hydrating Properties

Earlier we told you how to make a great skincare mask using milk. However, the natural moisturisers in milk can help your hair a great deal as well. This ingredient works like magic for especially those troubled with dry and dull hair. It can help completely rejuvenate your mane, while also adding a layer of sheen, as per several reports.

Pro-Tip: Here's a simple homemade hair mask you can try.

by Vrutika Shah, Femina



All you need to know about...

Magnesium for sleep

Miracle mineral
Magnesium is being touted as an antidote to poor sleep. The miraculous mineral is quite the rage on social media too. Magnesium is one of the most common minerals on earth and is present in many foods. It's essential for human health and is used in over 600 cellular reactions throughout your body. It plays a critical role in many physiological functions. It helps support immune health, and nerve and muscle function and regulates blood sugar too.

For sound sleep
Since the mineral is known for its relaxing effects on the muscles, taking a supplement before you sleep is a great way of preparing the body for rest. Apparently, magnesium can also help you lower your cortisol (stress) levels which makes it easier for the body to calm down and rest. You can get the mineral by drinking plenty of water and eating foods such as green vegetables, nuts, cereals, and fruits. We recommend adding a magnesium supplement to your diet after consulting your doctor. Remember that not all suppplments are the same, the type and amount of the mineral in each is different which is why your doctor would be the best to guide you on which one works best.

Sleepy girl mocktail
The sleepy girl mocktail has been trending on our Instagram feeds. If you're not one for supplements, you could probably try this. It contains a combination of tart cherry juice, magnesium powder, and a fizzy mixer like prebiotic soda or sparkling water. Try having the concoction an hour before bed to give it some time to work through the system. For it to work effectively, pair it with other sleep-inducing activities like keeping all your gadgets away.

-Femina

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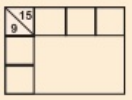
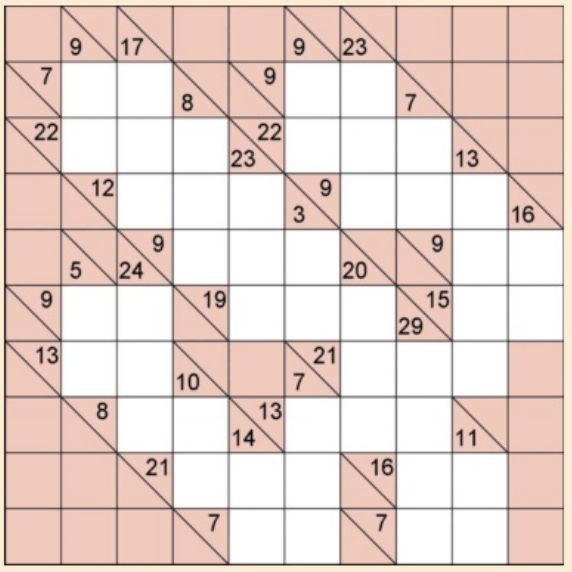
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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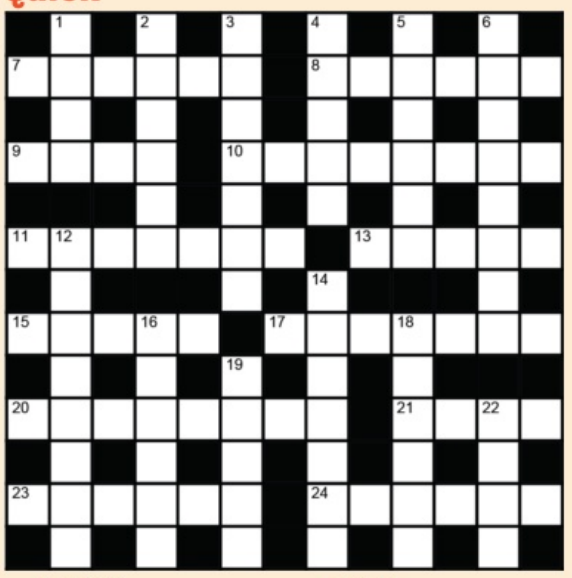


ACROSS

7 Incentive (6)
8 Was deficient in (6)
9 Something to sleep in? (4)
10 Hollywood actress Jennifer ____ (8)
11 Egg producing organs (7)
13 Made __ __ : employed ? (3,2)
15 Near (5)
17 Combine with water (7)
20 Make-up (informal) (3,5)
21 Chicken curry native to Karnataka (4)
23 Kinds, sorts or class ? (6)
24 California city Santa ____ (6)

DOWN

1 Soybean product (4)
2 Hook line and ___ : entirely? (6)
3 Answered or responded (7)
4 Inflated (5)
5 Means of entry (6)
6 __ __ to :extend to, try to get in touch with? (5,3)
12 Rural dweller (8)
14 Plans, schemes or orders? (7)
16 Drained of resources, in a way (6)
18 Collecting leaves–just as a gardener does? (6)
19 Like some diseases (5)
22 Be short of (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS O

MFBXNHRZPEK SRH NMFH GNNBX, YTE NHZK SVRBRSEFB SRH DFFM EVFW NMFH.

Linemaro

(As she is leaving) Hey aren't you forgetting something? (What?) Me!

Mindchow

Don't dwell on what went wrong; instead focus on what to do next

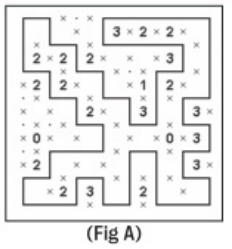
Joke of the day

Abstract art: The proof that things are not as bad as they are painted to be

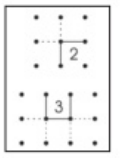
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

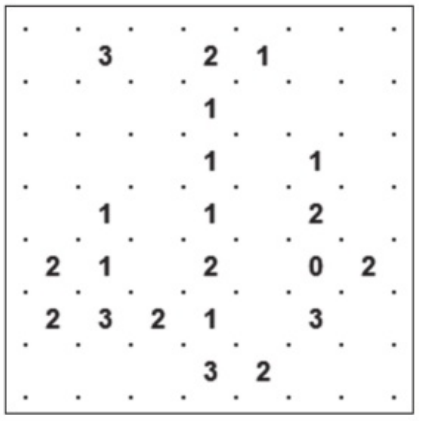


(Fig B) Not Allowed

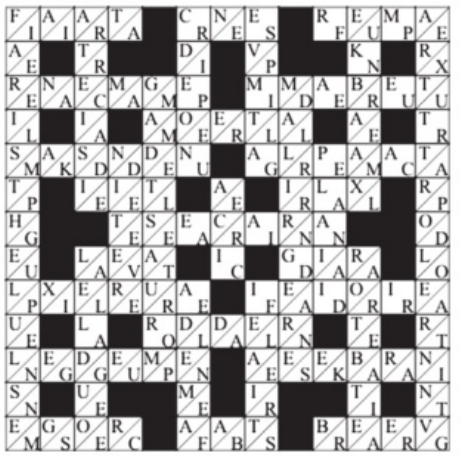
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



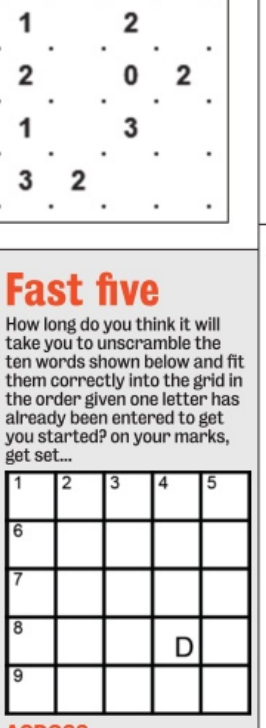
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

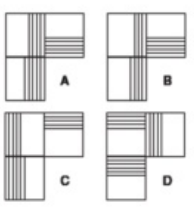
1 Parts; 6 An ear; 7 Soldi; 8 Media; 9 Repot

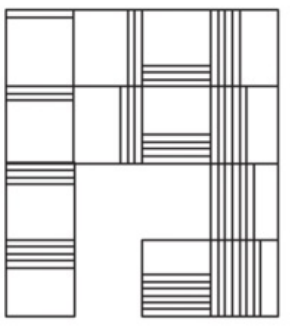
DOWN

1 Atlas; 2 I romp; 3 Pride; 4 No ade; 5 Aster

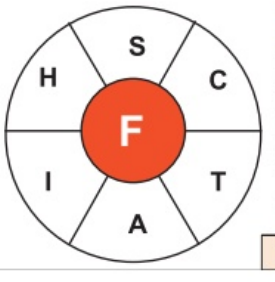
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1	3		9	6		
6	7						4	5
	8						3	
	5		9		1		2	
8			2		4			6
	4		6		3		7	
	3						6	
2	9						5	3
		4	5		2	8		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
2 3 4 8

Medium = 36
6 3 7 9

Hard = 47
2 7 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Scarf is longer. 2. Coat is shorter. 3. Fence is not as long. 4. Door handle is higher. 5. Windowsill is lower. 6. Sign on shovel is higher.

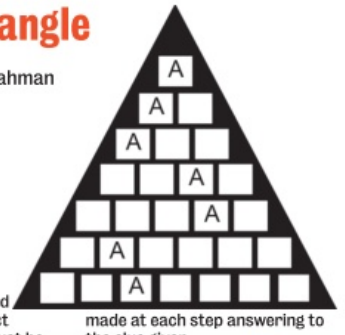
Riddler

When you curtail a word, you remove the last letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first.

1. Belonging to him –> Informal greeting
2. Accomplishes; performs –> Female deer
3. Evaluate; measure –> Donkeys
4. Royal girl –> Royal boys

Alpha triangle

1 First letter
2 Music director Rahman
3 Is for two
4 Beloved
5 Reverie
6 Injured
7 Captivated



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Bizarrotrip

Popeye

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HEY! DO Y'ALL WANNA PLAY DOUBLE DUTCH?
SURE!
WAIT! BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO DOUBLE DUTCH!
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
HOW??
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 AUDREY MCNEIL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

ARE YOUR SHOULDERS ALWAYS THIS TIGHT?
NO...
YOU SHOULD SEE THEM WHEN I'M NOT RELAXED LIKE THIS!
BATUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
1-19

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household items, which may improve your social status. You may likely hear some good news from one of your relatives.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you will be busy with family get-togethers. You may re-establish your network, which will give you benefits in the near future. Natives related to glamour, art, fashion, films, and media may plan to do something new in terms of their profession. Students may perform better today in terms of study. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy at work, which may make you mentally tired and may affect your daily routine. You may be able to create an overseas network, and you should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get promoted.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, the situation is under control. Your destiny is likely to be with you, so you may gain from past investments and also get some rewards for your hard work. Projects that were stopped without reason are likely to be reinitiated. You may expect peaceful religious travel and may also plan to donate some amount to any religious place or to some charity.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your moon is not in a positive mood, so you may have health issues. You may face losses in the business or in past investments. It is advised not to invest in business. Your gains will be converted into losses, so you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies; otherwise, it will pull you down negatively.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is good for your work, as you may be able to perform well, and your boss may likely give you some new responsibility in terms of promotions. Disputes with the partner may be settled now. You may lend money to build your assets. Your kids' health may be better now, and you may likely make some investments for the future of your kids.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of your professional life, and your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery are likely to yield positive gains in the near future. You are advised to be careful about the elders' health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be happy. Due to a blessing from an auspicious planetary combination, you may have some sort of energy, which may increase your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying and gaining new knowledge.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be dull at the start of the day, but after late evening, you may control negativity. New people may connect you on the work front, and with their help, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before submitting your signature.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, with the help of blessings, you may control your indecisiveness. Kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will translate into success in terms of the project. You may expect to get some incentives with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, homemaker art, and culture may do well.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may plan to migrate from your current place to another place, so it is advised to think twice before taking decisions regarding migration or a change of place. You may also plan to change jobs. There will be peace in your mind, but your kids' health might make you upset. It is advised to avoid speculation in investments. Lovebirds shall be patient before taking an important decision in terms of marriage.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may have good patience. Meditation may help you increase your concentration, which may help speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project before the deadline. You may be likely to go on some short trips related to work. An influential person may help you boost your network.

KIDZONE

Nicole Lean, 7 Years, Clarence High School

Keerthi A S Raju, 11 Years, Clarence Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(6^3+10^1)/(2(2)+8) =
(18+10)/(4+8)=
28/12=
7/3

BULL'S EYE
CATFISH, fact, faith, fast, flat, fish, fist, haft, shaft, shift, sift

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
A: looking down, the number of lines increases by 1 each time. Looking across, the number of lines also increases by 1, but the lines alternate horizontally and vertically.

QUOTE UNCODE
Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open.

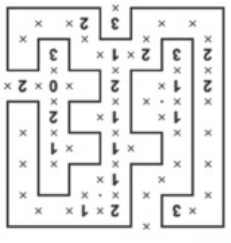
SUDOKU

5	2	1	3	4	9	6	8	7
6	7	3	1	2	8	9	4	5
4	8	9	7	6	5	1	3	2
3	5	6	9	7	1	4	2	8
9	4	2	6	8	3	5	7	1
8	1	7	2	5	4	3	9	6
2	9	8	4	1	6	7	5	3
1	3	5	8	9	7	2	6	4
7	6	4	5	3	2	8	1	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, AR, Are, Dear, Dream, Harmed, Charmed.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 – 4 – 3 + 2 = 3
Medium
7 x 3 + 9 + 6 = 36
Hard
7 x 7 + 2 – 4 = 47

LOOP



KAKURO

FAST FIVE

S	P	R	A	T
A	R	E	N	A
L	I	D	O	S
A	M	I	D	E
T	O	P	E	R

RIDDLER
1. His -> Hi!
2. Does -> Doe,
3. Assess -> Asses,
4. Princess -> Princes

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Rs 50-lakh set

Producer Chalawadi Kumar is leaving no stone unturned to make Sanju Weds Geetha 2 more splendid than the first one – Sanju Weds Geetha. The team returned to Bengaluru after completing the shooting of some of the scenes for 15 days at 11 locations in Switzerland recently. Director Nagashekar is also ensuring to include all elements that are a must to make audiences happy.

Chalawadi Kumar also spent Rs 45 lakh to Rs 50 lakh to erect a huge set for a song of the movie at Kunigal Stud Farm. "The shooting for the song was held for five days. We have decided to spend a huge amount for the shooting of the remaining songs. My aim is to make Sanju Weds Geetha 2 a memorable movie," said producer Chalawadi Kumar.

Ghost buster

Vyaana Varna Jammula, a software engineer, has been busy with promotional programmes of his maiden movie Maantrika. He played multiple roles – hero, script writer, director, dialogue writer, and producer – for the movie. The movie received a UA certificate.

A function was organised for screening a video on the making of Maantrika at Renukamba Preview Theater on Saturday. "Initially, I planned to make a web series with Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar based on this script but it did not happen. Some of my friends and well-wishers advised me to make it a feature film" he said.

Maantrika is a suspense thriller around a ghost hunter. Radhika Maalipatila and Mythili Nayak are the heroines. "The movie's concept is to explain if the people's belief in the existence of evil spirits is a psychological feeling or other problem. The hero owns a Come To Reality (CTR) firm specialised in counseling those who want to know about evil spirits," he said.

Stop deep faking

Ranveer Singh files complaint with police over deepfake video

Days after a deepfake video of him promoting political views went viral on social media, 'Padmaavat' actor Ranveer Singh has taken decisive action by lodging a complaint with Mumbai police against those responsible for its creation.

Amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the 'Padmaavat' actor fell prey to deepfake menace after his video surfaced online in which he was purportedly heard voicing his political views.

However, it turned out that the video was made using an artificial intelligence (AI) voice clone of the actor. The video, from the actor's recent visit to Varanasi, appears genuine but uses an AI-synthesized voice clone of Ranveer.

Ranveer filed a complaint with Mumbai Police's Cyber Crime Cell, confirmed an official on Monday. His spokesperson issued a statement, confirming the filing of an FIR: "Yes, we have filed the police complaint, and an FIR has been lodged against the handle promoting the AI-generated deepfake video."

After the AI-generated video went viral on social media platforms, Ranveer took to his Instagram on Friday and dropped a post in which he wrote, "Deepfake se bacho doston (Friends, beware of deepfakes)."

Previously, a deepfake video of actor Aamir Khan promoting a political party had gone viral. **–IANS**

No pressure over glamour

Actress and former Miss Universe Lara Dutta, who is gearing up for her upcoming web series 'Ranneeti: Balakot & Beyond', has shared that with age, she is shedding the notion of being glamorous.

Instead, she aims to focus on roles that make a lasting impression on the audience.

The actress expressed her desire to explore the psychological crime genre, stating that she would readily portray a negative character without hesitation.

Elaborating on the same, Lara said: "As I grow older, I'm breaking free from the idea of being glamorous or just seen as a pageant winner. Instead, I'm finally delving into the kind of work I've desired for a while. It's important to recognise the women who came before us, making space for us to succeed. Nowadays, women are leading the way in all sorts of roles, from making movies to writing scripts."

The actress said: "I feel lucky to be part of an industry that's changing for the better. Personally, I'm interested in exploring the psychological crime genre, even if it means playing a negative character. It's an exciting direction for me, and I would love to do a slightly darker role." **–IANS**

Protective mama

Bollywood's favourite pair, Ranbir Kapoor and Alia are now parents to a baby girl named Raha.

In an old episode of Koffee With Karan, Alia Bhatt openly talked about her daughter Raha.

Alia mentioned that they want to keep Raha away from the spotlight because she's still very young.

Alia Bhatt broke down when a picture showing a part of Raha's face appeared online. "A picture came out of hers, and we had a schedule in Kashmir. It was a very difficult schedule for me because it was the first time I was shooting after giving birth," Alia said, referring to the shoot of the song Tum Kya Mile. "I wasn't sleeping at night; I was feeding; I was rushing in between shoots. So I called Ranbir, and I told him I was finding it very difficult, so he pushed his work and said, 'Don't worry, I'm going to come and pick her up," she disclosed.

Ranbir kept his promise. "It was very relaxing for me, but it was also the first time I was separating from Raha, so I felt very guilty. So that guilt carried on, and it was just one and a half days later that I traveled back and I saw a photo where the side of her face was kind of visible, and I just broke down," Alia said. "And I realize I wasn't breaking down just because I didn't want people to see her face. When we meet people, Ranbir and I are like, Please give her your blessings. Raha do namaste. We are proud of our baby. But it was too many emotions put together, and I'm so protective of my loved ones that I was just like, Oh god, I don't want that conversation. But I realize I was just exhausted and overwhelmed at that time," she added. **–ETimes**

DON'T DO THAT AGAIN!

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry recently took to social media to express her discontent regarding her fiance Orlando Bloom's new TV series.

'Orlando Bloom: To The Edge' features the British actor attempting daring stunts and extreme sports, something 'American Idol' judge Katy Perry clearly isn't a fan of, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

The show has not been well received by the 'Roar' hitmaker. Katy, 39, voiced her disapproval of her partner's participation in the programme on her Instagram, advising him to "don't ever do this again". According to 'Mirror.co.uk', the three-part series showcases Orlando attempting skydiving, diving underwater without an air tank, and rock climbing.

"The person who has been #OnTheEdge this whole time is me," Katy said regarding the show's series trailer released on social media. "Stream baby daddy @orlandobloom's show on @peacock now to see why I'm so proud, but don't ever do this again."

Fans rallied to support Katy as well, with one stating, "I'm so happy for you! You found someone you deserve to have your heart! I can see through your eyes that you are happy and completed." Another fan added, "Legolas living on the edge!" Katy's criticism of Orlando's new show follows his teasing of her awkward wardrobe malfunction on the latest episode of American Idol.

Last week, she took to his partner's Instagram post to jest about her attire, comparing it to a cooking utensil. Katy had shared images of her outfit on the social media platform, and Orlando's comment was, "Glad I could bend that frying pan with my bare hands for you baby." **–IANS**